

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, IR, UK

SUBJECT: REPORTED BRITISH ARMS DEALS WITH IRAN

1. FBIS 18 OF NOVEMBER 1 QUOTES CHAPMAN PINCHER COLUMN IN LONDON DAILY EXPRESS TO EFFECT THAT BRITISH DEFENSE MINISTRY HAS JUST CONCLUDED MAJOR ARMS DEALS WITH GOI WORTH QTE MANY HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF POUNDS. UNQTE. ACCORDING TO DAILY EXPRESS ARTICLE, FIRST DEAL, WORTH 150 MILLION POUNDS, IS FOR BUILDING OF QTE HUGE WEAPONS PRODUCTION CENTRE UNQTE IN IRAN. THIS WILL ALLEGEDLY BE A COMPLEX OF FACTORIES TO MAKE AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES, GUNS AND OTHER ARMS AND BRITISH FIRMS ARE TO QTE PLAN THE COMPLEX, HELP CONSTRUCT IT AND PROVIDE THE MACHINE TOOLS, CHEMICAL PLANT AND MOST OF THE OTHER EQUIPMENT. UNQTE.

2. DAILY EXPRESS ARTICLE CLAIMS SECOND DEAL IS FOR MAJOR EXPANSION OF IRANIAN NAVY, WITH BRITISH SHIPYARDS TO BUILD QTE FRIGATES, PATROL BOATS, HOVERCRAFT AND OTHER WARSHIPS UNQTE AND WITH BRITISH FIRMS TO BE QTE PARTNERS WITH PERSIA IN ESTABLISHING A WARSHIP-BUILDING INDUSTRY THERE. UNQTE. ARTICLE SAYS THE ROYAL NAVY WILL BE PAID TO TRAIN

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CREWS.

3. ARTICLE ALSO MENTIONS FOLLOWING BRITISH IRANIAN
CIVIL CONTRACTS: 1) WITH MASSEY FERGUSON TO BUILD TRACTOR

FACTORY IN IRAN; 2) WITH LUCAS COMPANY TO SET UP
ELECTRICAL SPARE PARTS FACTORY FOR AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY;
AND 3) WITH GENERAL ELECTRIC FOR EXPANSION AND ELECTRIFI-
CATION OF IRANIAN RAILWAY SYSTEM.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY
MAY HAVE ON ABOVE REPORTS, PARTICULARLY ON ALLEGED BRITISH
-IRANIAN DEFENSE CO-PRODUCTION PROJECTS MENTIONED IN
DAILY EXPRESS ARTICLE. INGERSOLL

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